

DRAFT "QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL" LIST  
*Per R7-2-401*

On October 23, 2017, the Arizona State Board of Education adopted new rules in the area of Special Education. Among other things, these new rules replaced the specific professionals previously required to verify certain disabilities with the general term "qualified professional." The State Board of Education then directed the Department of Education to develop a list of qualified professionals eligible to conduct the appropriate evaluations, subject to review and approval of the State Board of Education. Below is the list of qualified professionals proposed by the Department of Education:

For the following disabilities, the full and individual initial evaluation shall include:

a. Emotional disability: verification of a disorder by a psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, licensed therapist/counselor, or a certified school psychologist.

b. Hearing impairment:

- i. An audiological evaluation by an individual holding a master's or doctoral degree in audiology, and
- ii. An evaluation of communication/language proficiency.

c. Other health impairment: verification of a health impairment by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, or licensed physician assistant.

e. Orthopedic impairment: verification of the physical disability by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, or licensed physician assistant.

f. Speech/language impairment: an evaluation by a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist.

g. For students whose speech impairments appear to be limited to articulation, voice, or fluency problems, the written evaluation may be limited to:

- i. An audiometric screening within the past calendar year,
- ii. A review of academic history and classroom functioning,
- iii. An assessment of the speech problem by a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist, or
- iv. An assessment of the student's functional communication skills.

h. Traumatic brain injury: verification of the injury by a doctor of medicine, doctor of osteopathy, licensed nurse practitioner, or licensed physician assistant.

i. Visual impairment: verification of a visual impairment by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

\*NOTE: Specific learning disability does not require verification by a qualified professional and this rule was left unchanged from the previous rule. The previous rule is as follows:

d. Specific learning disability: a determination of whether the child exhibits a pattern of strengths and weaknesses in performance, achievement, or both, relative to age, state-

approved grade-level standards, or intellectual development that meets the public education agency criteria through one of the following methods:

- i. A discrepancy between achievement and ability;
- ii. The child's response to scientific, research-based interventions; or
- iii. Other alternative research-based procedures.

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